

## Orthodox/Eastern Christian Studies at Trinity College

Summer 2011



Christ and Saint Minas (6<sup>th</sup> c. icon)

### Course (12) Orthodox "Pastoralia" 1: Fundamentals of Orthodox Spirituality (1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries) TRH 2451HS

**Residential course  
July 3 to 16, 2011**

Dr Paul Ladouceur  
*Trinity College and  
Université de Sherbrooke*

Students may enrol in this course for *degree credit* in the Toronto School of Theology (TST) OR as *Certificate-course auditors* (no transcript).

Those who wish *degree credit* should list the course on ROSI if they are already students within TST. Those who wish degree credit and are not already students at TST may apply for admission to one of the colleges of TST and are especially welcome to apply to the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College (416-978-2133).

Fees: For credit: Tuition \$473.00 plus applicable incidental fees.

Audit fee: \$250.00. Students wishing to enrol without degree credit should contact the Coordinator:

Prof. Richard Schneider  
rshneid@yorku.ca

416-978-2170 or 416-532-5488

Residential Fee: \$850.00.

Further information:

Faculty of Divinity, Trinity College  
416-978-2133

divinity@trinity.utoronto  
rachelr@trinity.utoronto.ca

*Tear off and mail, or e-mail your information to: rschneid@yorku.ca:*

P.T.O.

#### **Mail to:**

Prof. Richard Schneider, Faculty of Divinity  
Trinity College, University of Toronto  
6 Hoskin Avenue  
Toronto ON M5S 1H8

## Course overview

Spirituality is above all faith lived in the search for God and the experience of God, which the Fathers called *theologia*, beyond “theology” as abstract or theoretical knowledge of God. This course will explore Orthodox spirituality (or ascetic theology) from both thematic and historical perspectives. From a consideration of the goal of Orthodox spirituality as union with God or deification (*theosis*), the course will examine the contributions of the Old and New Testament; the early Church, monasticism, ancient philosophy, liturgy, mysticism, and patristic theology, especially anthropology. Patristic ascetic theology includes such key notions as the “passions” and the stages of temptation and sin; repentance or conversion (*metanoia*); the concurrence of divine and the human elements in the spiritual life (synergy); the role of the mind (*noûs*), the heart and the guarding of the heart (*nepsis*); and the “stages” of the spiritual life: purification, illumination and perfection. These elements of spirituality constitute a framework for the “practice” (*praxis*) of the spiritual life: the acquisition of virtues, particularly the commandment of love; communal or liturgical prayer; personal and communal prayer; sacramental life; fasting; Biblical and spiritual reading; and spiritual direction.

### Readings (course kit of selected texts)

Selections from major Eastern Christian pastoral and spiritual authors to the 14<sup>th</sup> century: The Desert Fathers; Athanasius; Origen; Macarius; Ephrem the Syrian; Evagrius; Cyril of Jerusalem; Basil the Great; Gregory of Nyssa; John Chrysostom; John Cassian; the Pseudo-Dionysius; Barsanuphius and John; Dorotheus of Gaza; Isaac of Nineveh; Sophronius; Maximus the Confessor; John Climacus; Andrew of Crete; Symeon the New Theologian; Gregory Palamas; Nicolas Cabasilas.

For further information on the content of the course, contact:

Dr Paul Ladouceur / thabor@megaweb.ca

### Requirements

Non-credit students are expected to attend all classes, complete the readings assigned during the course and participate in discussion. Credit students are required to make presentations on readings during the course and to complete a research essay exploring one or several of the writers or themes in greater depth (to be submitted by August 31, 2011).

### Residency

This residential course offers a unique opportunity to study Orthodox/Eastern Christian spirituality in a peaceful and prayerful rural setting, with morning and evening prayer in the Orthodox tradition as part of the learning experience (optional). The course will be given at the St Mary of Egypt Refuge, Madoc, Ontario (45 kms. north of Belleville). Accommodations are simple; students will share bedrooms and bathrooms and will participate in some household tasks.

Residential fee: \$850.00 (Cdn) (accommodation and all meals). To reserve, please send a cheque for \$200.00 made out to the St Mary of Egypt Refuge to:

St Mary of Egypt Refuge  
P.O. Box 75645,  
607 Gerrard St. East  
Toronto ON, M4M 3M5, Canada.

Refuge web site: [www.stmarysrefuge.org](http://www.stmarysrefuge.org) // [www.pagesorthodoxes.net/ressources/stmaryofegyptrefuge.htm](http://www.pagesorthodoxes.net/ressources/stmaryofegyptrefuge.htm).

For additional information on the Refuge:  
[info@stmarysrefuge.org](mailto:info@stmarysrefuge.org).

Please tear off and mail to address on reverse, or e-mail your information to:

<rachelr@trinity.toronto.ca>

Name

Address

Postal Code

Phone(s)

e-mail

TRH 2451H Pastoralia 1

I am considering the status of:

certificate credit (auditor)

UofT/IST credit